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COVERT ACTION

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- FORMER CIA DIRECTOR WILLIAM COLBY -- LIKENING THE SITUATION IN NICARAGUA TO THAT OF ANGOLA SEVEN YEARS AGO -- SAID TODAY THE USE OF COVERT ACTION IS JUSTIFIED TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE TO THE LEFTIST SANDINISTA REGIME.

"I THINK THE POINT IS DO WE WANT TO LOOK FORWARD TO A NICARAGUA LIKE ANGOLA TODAY," SAID COLBY, "AND THEN TO SEE THE REVOLUTION SPREAD TO THE NEIGHBORING AREA."

"THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA, WHICH CONGRESS PROHIBITED US FROM ACTING IN, IS NOW A GOVERNMENT UPHELD BY SOME 15,000 OR 20,000 CUBANS. NOW IS THAT WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO IN NICARAGUA?" COLBY ASKED DURING AN INTERVIEW ON ABC'S "GOOD MORNING AMERICA."

BUT, REP. GERRY STUDDS, D-MASS., APPEARING WITH COLBY, SAID THE HISTORY OF U.S. INTERVENTION IN CENTRAL AMERICA HAS BEEN ONE OF "TRAGIC ARROGANCE."

STUDDS SAID THE USE OF COVERT OPERATIONS AGAINST THE MANAGUA REGIME IS 'IMMORAL, ILLEGAL AND THEY DON'T WORK.'

"I DON'T THINK IT IS IMMORAL, I THINK IT IS QUITE A PROPER THING," SAID COLBY, CIA DIRECTOR DURING THE NIXON AND FORD ADMINISTRATIONS.

"THE WHOLE POINT OF HAVING A COVERT ACTION IS OF HELPING FRIENDS. IT DIFFERS FROM INTERVENTION," SAID COLBY. 'THE WHOLE POINT IS TO USE COVERT ACTION SO THAT YOU WON'T HAVE TO USE MILITARY FORCE."

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